

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 17, 2004 LB 962

management. So anyway, my point is, is if they have the ability to raise by a penny, my sense is they're going to do it. Now, other people who have been on local boards may have a different opinion, but this is not insignificant, what we're being asked to do right here. As I understand it, the Appropriations Committee's budget reflects \$1.10. That's a 5 cent per \$100 property tax increase. This is an additional penny. If, and again I don't know that they'll do this, but if all the NRDs all...if they all do the additional penny, that's \$9.8 million additional money that is created from property taxes, 9.799593, so \$9.8 million on the 23 NRDs. I don't think that's insignificant. I told Senator Bromm that I wouldn't push this on General File. I'm going to vote no on this amendment, but I'm going to do everything I can on Select to make sure that this isn't here. I find this very hard to do, to raise taxes to fund new programs, no matter how important, when we can't even...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BOURNE: ...come to a balanced budget. You look at our out years and anybody that's looked at that budget, that looks at the out year numbers, if they're not terrified, they should be or they're not reading it properly. We are in a huge hole here. We're being asked to spend an additional \$14.5 million with no funding. If we're going to take it out of the Environmental Trust on a grant basis, there's nothing to prevent them from denying that grant in the years to come, and it's going to come out of the General Fund. This doesn't even make sense. We're going to throw a little bit of money at a \$14.5 million problem. It's going to be squandered. Nothing productive will come out of it. I'm going to vote no on this amendment. I'm going to vote no on the advancement of the bill. I urge you all to really think hard about how we're going to fund this. This doesn't really make a lot of sense at this point, to fund new programs to the tune of \$14.5 million per year, when we can't even resolve our budget problems.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Pederson, I'm sorry, Don, that is.